

Greater Peterborough Area Community Sustainability Plan



March 2012

"Let's raise our eyes beyond the conventional horizon of a year and ask, What kind of world would we like to have in a generation?" – David Suzuki

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This plan was prepared by Lura Consulting, in association with Grant Consulting and Hardy Stevenson and Associates Limited, under the direction of the Sustainable Peterborough Steering and Community Committee.



FOREWORD

The Sustainable Peterborough Steering and Community Committees are pleased to deliver the Sustainable Peterborough Plan. Throughout this process we have been concerned with the growing environmental issues facing the planet. We have also realized that our social, cultural and economic development is intricately linked to the environmental challenges facing the City, County, Townships and First Nations in the Greater Peterborough Area. We started our journey with a question: how can we best balance our community's development needs in the face of rising global temperatures, disappearing natural resources, and deteriorating air, water and soil quality?

Sustainable Peterborough has become the vehicle to help the Greater Peterborough Area lay a foundation for present and future action. All local municipalities have joined the process. The City of Peterborough agreed to sponsor the Plan while the Greater Peterborough Area Economic Development Corporation hosted the work. The funders supported excellent consultation through the Lura team. They, in turn, engaged the community to inform and direct the Plan.

Themes, Strategic Directions and first step *Priority Actions* came directly from County and City participants in the process. Supporting documents were created to help all of us move forward, including: a *Current Conditions* Report (Appendix E) to identify what we are already doing; a 'Sustainability Lens' to guide future decisions; '*Priority Actions*' to identify "quick wins" for change; as well as a '*Toolbox*' and other supporting materials. Throughout, our Committee members offered their guidance, expert knowledge, and active support for this process through the four years of the planning and delivery of the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan.

As with any 'Plan', we recognize that this is a snapshot in time of local awareness and engagement on this complicated issue. We understand that increasing global temperatures and its negative link to fossil fuel consumption challenge us to make sustainable energy choices and to increase our conservation efforts. We know that this Sustainability Plan must change and grow with our own education and commitment.

Through the approval process, we will be asking the City, the County, the Townships and the First Nations to adopt this plan and to mould it to suit their needs. We encourage them to review all their planning documents, including their Official Plans, to reflect the need for sustainability. We also extend an open invitation to *Community Partners* – institutions, businesses, organizations and individuals to adopt aspects of the Plan but also encourage them to push the Plan further on the road to sustainability. We will seek to refresh this Plan every four years as new municipal Councils are elected.

Thank you for reading the *Community Sustainability Plan* and for taking your place in it. We look forward to building a healthier community together.

Ken Doherty and Linda Slavin, Co-Chairs of Sustainable Peterborough

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the following people and organizations that contributed their time, funding, and/or ideas to create the Sustainable Peterborough Plan:

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Participants in the Community Cafes – August 2011 and November 2011

Participants in Places & Spaces Conversations – March 2011 – February 2012

Participants on the Sustainable Peterborough Blog, Facebook, and Twitter – January 2011 – February 2012

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- Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough
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1. WHY SUSTAINABILITY IN PETERBOROUGH?

Our Sustainable Community Plan

Sustainable Peterborough...Our Future, Our Legacy. Our community, the Greater Peterborough Area, has undertaken an exciting journey towards sustainability. The development of our Integrated Community Sustainability Plan – *Sustainable Peterborough* – has been a collaborative endeavour that has taken us 18 months, and is the starting point of an even longer journey. This Plan establishes our 25-year *Vision* for our region, as defined by our community, and sets *Goals, Strategic Directions, and Priority Actions* to foster healthy environments, people, and economies. It guides the reduction of environmental impacts, strengthens our social and cultural networks, and increases our economic prosperity. Sustainable Peterborough is more than a plan; it captures our community values and is a way to advance those values through action, moving us towards a sustainable future. It encourages all community members to keep our shared values in mind and to think and act sustainably.

Sustainable Peterborough encompasses the twelve communities within the Greater Peterborough Area. This includes the City of Peterborough, County of Peterborough, Asphodel-Norwood, Cavan Monaghan, Curve Lake First Nation, Douro-Dummer, Galway-Cavendish & Harvey, Havelock-Belmont-Methuen, Hiawatha First Nation, North Kawartha, Otonabee-South Monaghan, and Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield.

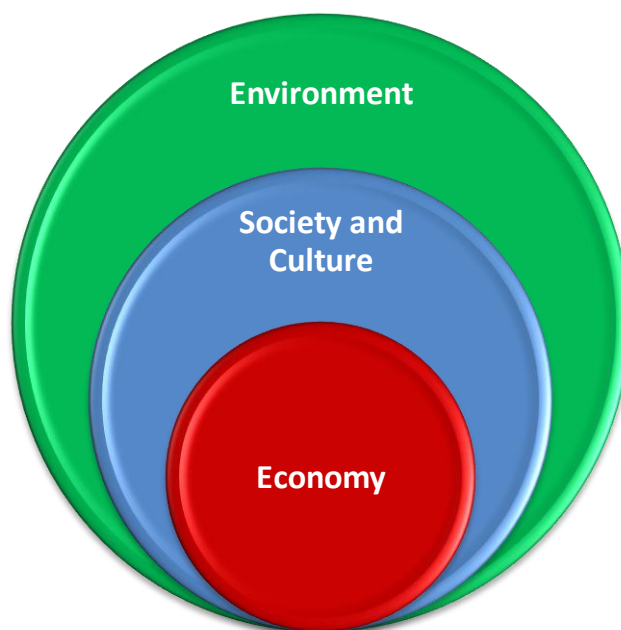
This Plan is unique in the sense that its applicability extends beyond just municipalities and First Nations. The Sustainable Peterborough Plan seeks to integrate our *Vision* of sustainability into municipal, institutional, and business operations, community actions and initiatives, and everyday decision-making in a practical and realistic way that addresses areas of importance to all members of the Greater Peterborough Area. This is important because sustainability cannot be pursued in isolation. Collective action from all community members translates into meaningful progress toward our *Vision* of sustainability.

Why Sustainability?

Sustainability is a widely used term that has different meaning for all communities. For Sustainable Peterborough, we have adopted the commonly used definition of sustainable development, coined in the 'Our Common Future' report stemming from the United Nations-convened World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987:

“Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

Sustainability seeks to find a balance between environmental, socio-cultural, and economic pillars, in recognition of the fact that social and economic development is bound by environmental constraints. Sustainability is also about maintaining what makes us, us. It's about identifying our values and sustaining those for our future generations to



also enjoy. Sustainable Peterborough identifies what we love about our communities and works to mitigate threats to our future, such as climate change, as part of our long-term vision of sustainability. Most importantly, our Plan will help us to begin taking more action. Change will not be accomplished right away; it will take years and even decades. As time passes, goals and strategies can be updated, they can become more ambitious as we progress. Decision-making can become easier, and sustainability the norm.

Sustainability seeks to find a balance between environmental, socio-cultural, and economic pillars, in recognition that social and economic development is bound by environmental constraints.

Climate change is expected to have significant and lasting changes in the distribution of our weather patterns globally and locally. Global temperatures have been rising in recent decades. Southern Ontario is already experiencing an increase in mean temperature, more erratic weather patterns and greater variability in precipitation. These changes are expected to continue and intensify in the future. Indeed, Greater Peterborough Area communities have already experienced these impacts through flooding. Impacts could include more capacity demand for stormwater infrastructure, more flooding and property damage, more smog days, an increase in invasive species and a greater strain on our natural systems. These effects will impact our natural environment, our quality of life, and our economy.

The economy of the Greater Peterborough Area is also vulnerable to change. Its strengths lie in the municipal, university, schools and hospital sector, which is supported by strong local industries. However, changes in government policies, interest rates, fuel costs or the global economy have the potential to affect economic circumstances.

Peterborough performs well as a 'creative community'; with strong cultural and heritage grounds and a quality of life that attracts and keeps our residents. Even more opportunity exists to build on the festivals, events and attractions that make the Greater Peterborough Area a desirable place to live.

Sustainable Peterborough is the voice of thousands of people from all parts of the Greater Peterborough Area. It is a roadmap that portrays our community ideals and points to what we want to maintain and enhance over the next 25 years. This Plan conveys our *Vision*, sets our *Goals* for the *Theme* areas we consider most important, defines *Strategic Directions*, and identifies *Priority Actions*, as well as additional potential initiatives that support our *Goals* and *Strategic Directions*.

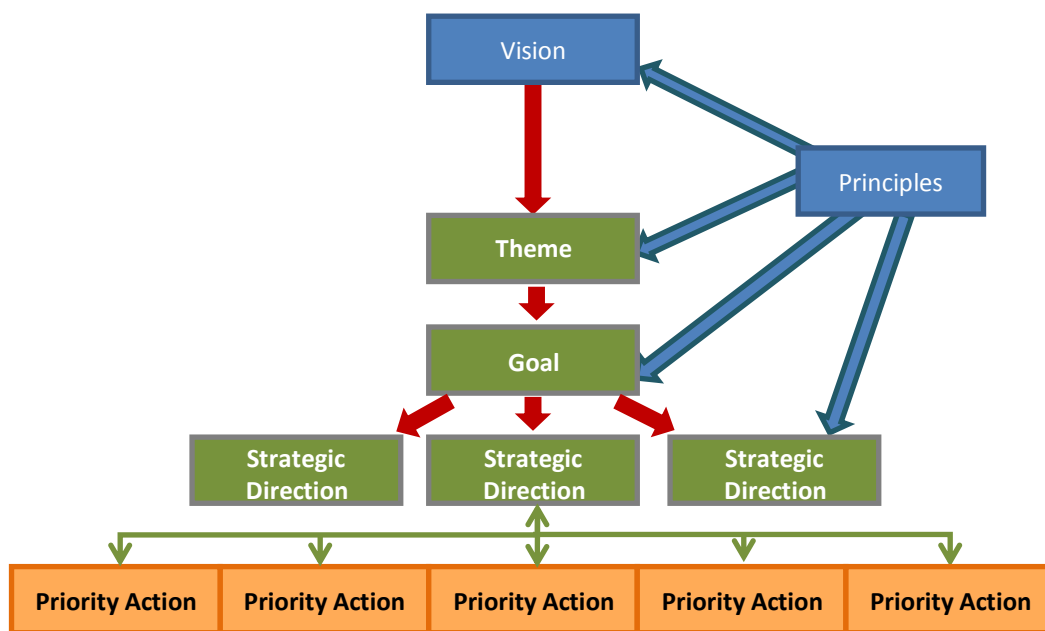
Sustainable Peterborough Framework

Each component of our Sustainable Peterborough Plan has been defined by our community. Each component is explained below:

- **Vision** – This is the overall vision for community sustainability in 25 years from now. All actions taken in the future should move the Greater Peterborough Area closer to its *Vision*.
- **Principles** – *Principles* provide our community and the Sustainable Peterborough team with guidance in developing our *Themes*, *Goals*, *Strategic Directions*, and *Priority Actions*, as well as guidance in future decision-making.
- **Themes** – A *Theme* is a specific focus area of Sustainable Peterborough that has emerged as an area of importance to our community and supports achievement of the overall *Vision*, such as energy, climate change, water, or economic development and employment. Each *Theme*

overlaps considerably with each of the three pillars. For example, developing a sustainable building would touch on energy, water, waste, transportation and land use planning.

- **Goals** – Describes what each *Theme* looks like if our *Vision* is achieved. The goal statement describes what success looks like in a sustainable future for this *Theme*, aligned with the *Vision* and ultimately the *Principles*. It generally takes the form of a statement of the highest aspirations and purpose for the community system combined with a number of long-term *Strategic Directions* that provide further detail.
- **Strategic Directions** – *Strategic Directions* are high level objectives that are intended to provide strategic guidance on moving from the *Current Condition* to the *Goal* developed for each *Theme*.
- **Priority Actions** – Certain actions have been identified as *Priority Actions* which, through consultation, have continuously been cited as projects or initiatives that should be the immediate focus for Sustainable Peterborough. *Priority Actions* are grouped under each of the *Themes*, which provide greater detail on potential activities and which of our community partners can help implement them (see Appendix A).



Within each *Theme* a number of additional potential initiatives have been identified that support the *Goal* and *Strategic Directions*; however, they did not emerge as *Priority Actions*. These potential initiatives have been derived from existing plans and strategies and suggested by our community. They are broken down into short-term and long-term actions and are set forth in Appendix B – List of Potential Initiatives.

Also included as part of our Plan is the *Sustainable Peterborough Toolbox* (Appendix C), which is a collection of approaches, programs and initiatives that can be adopted on a voluntary basis by different groups of people in the Greater Peterborough Area. It is intended as a resource to help everyone move towards our *Vision* for our sustainable community. Appropriate tools are identified to assist with each of our *Priority Actions*, as well as to support each of our *Themes*. The Plan also includes: the *Current Conditions Report* (Appendix E) – a snap-shot of the environmental, social/cultural and economic conditions of the Greater Peterborough Area, and a list of Funding Sources (Appendix H) in support of the implementation of the Plan.

2. HISTORY OF SUSTAINABILITY

The Greater Peterborough Area has a long history of sustainability, one which has earned us our strong reputation. Following on the heels of the much famed United Nations' report, 'Our Common Future', our first conversation on sustainability, the 'Our Common Future' forum was held in 1989. The forum brought over 200 community members together to discuss our collective future and share our vision and suggestions for local action. This forum produced a number of recommendations that were widely circulated and affected the creation and actions of local environmental groups. A follow-up forum was held in 1991. The City of Peterborough's Mayor, Sylvia Sutherland, responded positively to a community request and formed the Mayor's Committee on Sustainable Development that worked from 1990 to 1992 to further refine the agenda on sustainability and promote implementation by identifying priorities, increasing knowledge and awareness, and building stronger links between our citizens, organizations, businesses, and government.

In 1990, a sub-committee of the Mayor's Committee developed the Sustainable Development Task Force Report in collaboration with our community, identifying numerous recommendations to encourage action and provide further direction for the future. Peterborough Green-Up was established in 1992 as a result of the recommendations of the Task Force Report. Vision 2020, completed in 1996, brought key sustainability concepts to a wider business audience.

This was followed by the formation of the Peterborough Sustainability Network in 2000 by academics and environmental professionals to explore policy issues. By 2006, a small group of the Peterborough Sustainability Network members were meeting for breakfast monthly to try to capture the attention of key leaders in the region. The Network asked the Mayor to host other Members of Council as well as City and County staff in a workshop on sustainability in early 2007. The Councils of the City and County of Peterborough then decided to support a regional sustainability planning initiative beginning in 2007 involving City and County staff, environmentalists, retirees, educators, students, and members of the business community. The Prosperity Round Table also continued the discussion on sustainability amongst the business community.

In 2009, 'Sustainable Peterborough' received City of Peterborough project funding, complimented with additional funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Canada's Rural Partnership, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, and the Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough.

More than 20 years after the community's first conversation on sustainability, Lura Consulting, in association with Hardy Stevenson and Associates Limited and Grant Consulting, was hired to facilitate the development of the Sustainable Peterborough Plan. The Sustainable Peterborough Plan is the culmination of 18 months of collaboration, engagement, and hard work, marking the shift from planning to doing. For complete details on the planning process and what our community told us, please see Appendix D – *Developing Sustainable Peterborough through Community Collaboration*.



Sustainable Peterborough Project Team with members of the Community Committee in the GPAEDC Board Room.

3. OUR COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Community engagement and dialogue has always been the priority when discussing sustainability in the Greater Peterborough Area. Beginning with the 1989 'Our Common Future' forum, the table has long been set for collaborative approaches to finding solutions to our sustainability challenges and engraining our values into planning for the future. The development of the Sustainable Peterborough Plan has been no different.

From the outset, the direction was clear from all involved that the Sustainable Peterborough Plan was to be truly reflective of our community's shared values and priorities. Leading the development of Sustainable Peterborough was a *Steering Committee* and *Community Committee*, both of which represented various organizations with a diverse range of interests, all ten municipalities and both First Nations communities within the Greater Peterborough Area, and our community at large.

Over the 18 months of collaboratively building Sustainable Peterborough, 2,200 people directly participated in shaping our *Vision, Goals, Strategic Directions, and Priority Actions*. Additionally, thousands more had the opportunity to learn about Sustainable Peterborough and sustainability through community cafes, individual face-to-face conversations, places and spaces meetings, presentations, display booths, newspaper articles, radio and television coverage, as well as online through the Sustainable Peterborough Blog, Facebook and Twitter. We estimated that at least 20,000 Greater Peterborough Area community members were indirectly reached during the development of Sustainable Peterborough. Our community's response and level of engagement has been exceptional.



Sustainable Peterborough visioning glasses, which were later filled out by members of our community



Naomi Locke (left) and Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield Councillor Anita Locke (right) share their vision at the Lakefield Market.



Galway-Cavendish & Harvey Community Cafe at the Lakehurst Hall.

Engagement Mechanism	Total
Steering Committee and Community Committee Meetings	23
Municipal and First Nations Council Meetings	37
Presentations/discussions with community groups and businesses	59
Events attended	49
Community Cafes	23
Policy Charrette	1
Online	119 Facebook likes 657 Twitter followers >1,000 website views/month
Mail out to County Households	11,000 households received
One page information sheets handed out	Approximately 2,500
Media Coverage	29 Newspaper/Magazine Stories 4 Newspaper Ads 12 Newsletters 4 Radio Interviews/Stories 2 CHEX Stories
(Multiple) Emails sent to:	817 City/Police staff ~600 community members 60 area politicians 50 Groups/Organizations 23 Cottage Associations



Participants work through sustainability issues at the Policy Charrette.

4. WHAT ARE OUR COMMUNITY VALUES?

Our Principles

Our sustainability *Principles* have provided guidance in the development of this Plan and will continue to provide guidance in future decision-making. All recommendations and actions should refer back to these *Principles* to ensure that our community is moving towards our *Vision*. The following are our sustainability *Principles*:

- **Think Long-term** – Focus beyond short-term solutions on the steps we need to take to achieve our sustainability goals.
- **Look for Regional Solutions** – Work together to identify collective solutions to common problems.
- **Be Transparent and Accountable** – Track positive and negative changes in community sustainability, share the results, accept accountability, and continuously improve.
- **Be Innovative** – Look beyond the tried and true to new approaches that can be tested and implemented if feasible.
- **Adopt Simple, Understandable, and Doable Approaches** – Build on what we are doing, support individual agency and community-led initiatives, and focus on achievable next steps.
- **Adopt Financially Achievable Approaches** – Establish the payback timeframe, balance benefits with long-term costs, and look for innovative funding and financing options.
- **Engage Community Members** – Create and nurture long-term connections between individuals, community groups, institutions, businesses and local municipalities and First Nations.
- **Make a Commitment and Lead by Example** – As partners to this process, make a commitment to sustainability and show leadership within the community.
- **Be Inclusive** – Reach out to all communities within the Greater Peterborough Area, embrace diversity and use our understanding of collective needs to shape and influence our actions.
- **Be Creative** – Nurture and harness the creativity that lies within everyone to build a strong economy, cultural identity, and protection for our natural assets.

Cross Cutting Concepts

As our community provided input into the development of Sustainable Peterborough, it became clear that certain values, ideas, and concepts apply to all *Themes*.

Education

Education is a lifelong process and we should never stop learning. Learning, raising awareness, training, skills development, and formal education are all activities that have a common purpose: the development of human capacity.

Initially, participants in our Sustainable Peterborough *Charrette* considered making education either a theme on its own or a component of one of our other themes. We came to realize however, that education should be a consideration whenever we consider future action. As a result, education is implicit in every *Theme* and *Strategic Direction* in the Sustainable Peterborough Plan.

We can begin by raising awareness in the community by answering basic questions: What is the purpose of Sustainable Peterborough? How can we use Sustainable Peterborough? How can people get involved? This opens the door to more detailed questions about the *Themes*, our *Goals*, our *Strategic Directions*, *Priority Actions*, and how to use the *Sustainable Peterborough Toolbox*.

Specific programs of training, education or skills development can be considered for each *Theme*. Within K to 12 programs there are opportunities for teachers to focus on specific parts of sustainability, while universities and colleges can and do offer focused programs that are linked to each of the *Themes*. Organizations can offer training to employees, volunteers and members that can be focused or general, lasting days or less than an hour. Employment programs with skill building components can integrate sustainability throughout as we improve labour skills. Finally, lifelong learners should have opportunities to learn about sustainability in a variety of ways from self-directed learning to formal programs. Our goal is to integrate education into all of the programs and activities connected to Sustainable Peterborough.

Collaboration

Government cannot fund every single sustainability idea that makes sense, especially not municipal governments. Instead, we need to work together as *Community Partners* in order to realize the Greater Peterborough Area's *Vision* for sustainability. Collaboration is required for success.

Collaboration begins with recognizing the links between individuals, businesses, organizations and the community at large. It all begins with an individual agency which is acting as one person to undertake change. When people care enough to act they make a commitment to action that they can undertake themselves or in groups.

Generally, individuals use their networks to form or join larger groups. This grassroots, bottom up approach is an effective community development strategy that can be used to implement the strategic directions in the plan.

The Sustainable Peterborough Plan also includes a program to recruit *Community Partners*. It was built to be implemented by all members of our community, including municipalities, First Nations, businesses, community groups and organizations, and the general public.

Engagement

As we developed Sustainable Peterborough it was hard not to be impressed by the contributions made by residents of the Greater Peterborough Area. Overall, more than 2,200 people were involved in the development of the plan by participating in one or more of the events held during the course of the project. A lesson learned is that people want to be engaged in the process of building a more Sustainable Peterborough.

Engagement will continue to be an important component of the plan. By working with *Community Partners*, individuals, and their networks on an ongoing basis we can continue to involve people in the ongoing implementation of actions that support our *Vision* of sustainability. Our ongoing reporting and review of the plan will produce a regular 'refresh' of Sustainable Peterborough itself which will evolve as we consider our successes and future needs.

Our goal is to build the engagement of residents, community partners and other organizations into the ongoing implementation and review of Sustainable Peterborough.

Plan Alignment

Sustainable Peterborough occurs within the context of many other forward looking initiatives. Municipalities have active Official Plans, Cultural Plans, and Servicing Plans. Businesses have corporate

financial and strategic plans. Hospitals, universities and non-government organizations have strategic plans in place. Thus, Plan alignment will be an essential component of all future work connected to Sustainable Peterborough. We heard loud and clear from municipal leaders that there are many plans to consider not only at the municipal level but a broader community level.

During the initial phases of developing Sustainable Peterborough, we conducted a *Current Conditions* analysis of the Greater Peterborough Area, which is a comprehensive review of policies, plans/strategies, programs, and initiatives to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. In our *Current Conditions* Report (see Appendix E) the Sustainable Peterborough project team documented and analyzed many of the plans in place at the time that Sustainable Peterborough was developed. Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats were identified. The analysis was subsequently used to find common ground between initiatives and to pull direction from many of the existing plans. The Sustainable Peterborough planning process occurred within a dynamic policy environment. For example, in the short time since this process was initiated, many important plans, such as the City of Peterborough's Municipal Cultural Plan, are about to be launched.

Instead, *Community Partners* who choose to be leaders are asked to align future plans with the *Vision*, *Goals*, and *Strategic Directions* contained within Sustainable Peterborough. In fact, every time a new plan is proposed the question should be asked, “Will you be aligning this plan with Sustainable Peterborough?”

Our goal is to align all future plans with Sustainable Peterborough to the degree to which this is feasible.

Integration

Sustainable Peterborough is one of the broadest, most comprehensive examinations of plans, programs and other initiatives related to sustainability that has ever been undertaken. It brought together future *Community Partners* and provides them with many ways to collaborate and integrate. From trail planning to waste management to tourism and beyond, Sustainable Peterborough considers how we can work as partners in an integrated manner.

Our goal is to continue to work together as *Community Partners* to find opportunities to combine efforts so that we can avoid duplication and minimize the resources required to move towards our *Vision* for sustainability.

5. WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE IN 2037?

Truly a community-based plan, Sustainable Peterborough is based on extensive discussions and outreach with stakeholders and the broader public. Beginning in March 2011 and continuing until August 2011, the Sustainable Peterborough Project Team worked with the broader community to identify what they value most about our community and their vision for a Sustainable Peterborough. Through attendance at 49 community events and community spaces such as the Peterborough Garden Show and Peterborough Public Library; meetings with businesses, presentations and discussions with 59 groups such as the Rotary Club of Peterborough-Kawartha and the Peterborough Downtown Business Improvement Association; extensive online surveying and social media interaction; and hosting a round of Community Cafes in each of our eleven member communities, more than 1,900 of our community members took the opportunity to share what is important to them and their future. The results of these community conversations are our *Vision* and the *Themes* of Sustainable Peterborough.

Our Vision

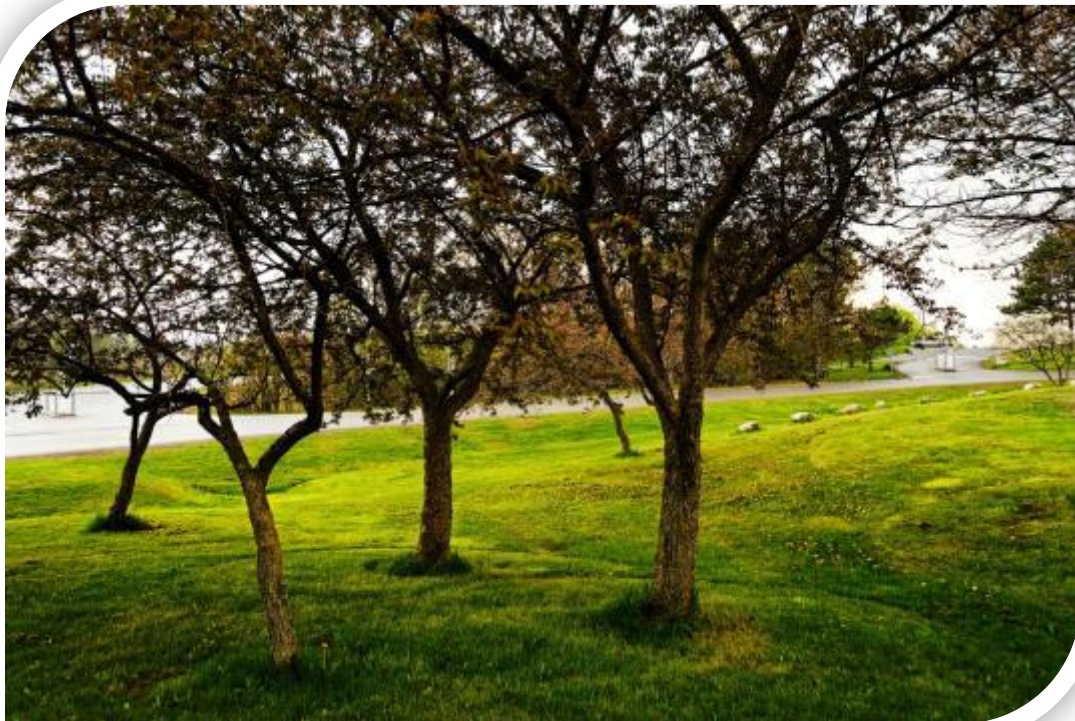
Our *Vision* for what we want the Greater Peterborough Area to look like in 25 years forms the basis of the Sustainable Peterborough Plan. Our *Vision* for Sustainable Peterborough is based on extensive discussions and outreach with stakeholders and the broader public, and will provide guidance for the municipalities, First Nations, community organizations, business, and residents of the Greater Peterborough Area. Our *Vision* is...



***Caring communities balancing prosperity,
well-being and nature.***

6. HOW WILL WE ACHIEVE OUR VISION?

Our *Vision* is long-term. Getting there will take short- and long-term action by all members of our community. We have outlined the following framework detailing how the actions will be implemented, who will be responsible, the mechanisms to succeed, and the partnerships required. It focuses on Sustainable Peterborough's *Goals, Strategic Directions, and Actions*, and does not include the details of any technical implementations. This section should be read in conjunction with those above that outline specific *Priority Actions* identified by the community to support our *Vision, Sustainability Principles, Goals, and Strategic Directions*.



On campus at Trent University.

Themes

Based on what our community said during the first round of engagement, eleven key *Theme* areas of focus emerged for Sustainable Peterborough. These are areas that our community values the most and form the structure of our Sustainable Peterborough Plan.

Each one of the *Themes* below is presented in greater detail in the following section, outlining the *Goal*, *Strategic Directions*, and *Priority Actions* as defined by our community.



Agriculture & Local Food



Climate Change



Cultural Assets



Economic Development & Employment



Energy



Healthy Communities



Land Use Planning



Natural Assets



Transportation



Waste



Water

Theme: Agriculture & Local Food



Vendors at the Lakefield Market.

Where Are We Now?

The Greater Peterborough Area has a rich, diverse, and passionate agriculture and local food community. Farming and food production, ingrained in the community's culture, has long been a significant economic activity in many parts of the region, and will likely continue to be so well into the future. Be it the local food branding initiatives of Kawartha Choice FarmFresh, the hustle and bustle of local markets, or the advocacy of groups like the Peterborough Community Garden Network, increasing local food production and the awareness of such activities is an issue that is top of mind for many in the Greater Peterborough Area.

However, there are still opportunities to increase the support and use of local food within the community. Local grocers and international food retailers have an opportunity to enhance local purchases. Further opportunities exist to encourage wider use of farmers' markets and purchases at farm gates, although access to farmers' markets remains a challenge for some of our rural residents and the natural limitations in our northern-most communities inhibit local food production and availability.

Where Do We Want to Be in 25 Years?

Our Goal: We will feed ourselves sustainably with local, healthy foods.

How Are We Going to Get There?

By following our *Strategic Directions*:

- Maintain adequate farmland availability to support our sustainable agricultural needs.
- Facilitate the production, storage, processing, distribution, and marketing of local, healthy food.
- Encourage farmers to practice good environmental stewardship.

Priority Actions

- Undertake a community food system assessment to identify gaps and opportunities to connect local food growers and producers, processors, distributors, retailers and consumers throughout the region, building on the feasibility study currently planned by the Kawartha Community Food Hub.
- Identify and protect existing farmland, and increase its capacity to supply local food needs.

Note: Greater details of the *Priority Actions* are outlined in Appendix A. Additional short- and long-term Actions are offered in the List of Potential Initiatives (Appendix B).

Toolbox Resources

- **Supporting Local Food Systems** – Ways to establish a minimum requirement of local, sustainable food in municipal food services contracts.
- **Funds for Local Food Systems** – Ways to tap into funding to assist municipal efforts in supporting and enhancing the local food industry.
- **Farming “Best Practices” Toolkit** – Best practices to help improve in the areas of bio-security, business development, environment & climate change, and food safety and traceability.
- **Five Things Restaurants Can Do Right Now to Be More Sustainable** – Simple steps to help your restaurant become more sustainable.

Sustainability in Action

- Kawartha Choice FarmFresh is a branding mechanism used to quickly identify locally produced goods to community members. Kawartha Choice FarmFresh recently received the Premier’s Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence.
- Hiawatha First Nation’s L.I.F.E. Services and Child Care Centre is one of many places you can find a community garden.
- Transition Town Peterborough hosted its inaugural Purple Onion Festival in September 2011 to celebrate local food and culture, drawing in excess of 1,000 people.
- The City of Peterborough established a Community Garden Policy in 2010. The policy facilitates establishment of community gardens on lands owned or controlled by the City through the Peterborough Community Garden Network (PCGN).
- Fleming launched a new graduate certificate program in Sustainable Agriculture in January 2011. Students graduate with a completed business/farm plan in support of their entry in sustainable agriculture practice.

Theme: Climate Change



City of Peterborough firefighters during the 2004 flood.

Where Are We Now?

The global community is facing tremendous challenges as our planet warms and climate patterns begin to shift. This rings true for the local community as well, where already people have begun to notice change in the weather we experience. There is a large consensus that there is still room for action on climate change, though the window of time in which to act is becoming increasingly narrow. To date, there has been little direct action taken in the community to address the possible challenges that may be encountered locally in the face of a continued warming trend. Fortunately, the Greater Peterborough Area has positioned itself well for action through the creation of its Sustainability Plan, within which actions across all eleven themes will help the community with mitigation and adaptation measures.

Where Do We Want to Be in 25 Years?

Our Goal: We will reduce our contributions to climate change while increasing our ability to adapt to climate change conditions.

How Are We Going to Get There?

By following our *Strategic Directions*:

- Prepare to respond and adapt to changing conditions associated with climate change.
- Develop broad public acceptance of efforts to mitigate climate change.
- Reduce and offset greenhouse gas emissions produced within our community.

Priority Actions

- Become active members in the Partners for Climate Protection Program (PCP) to establish a baseline of greenhouse gas emissions with a corresponding plan for achieving a set target in emissions reductions.

Note: Greater details of the *Priority Actions* are outlined in Appendix A. Additional short- and long-term Actions are offered in the List of Potential Initiatives (Appendix B).

Toolbox Resources

- **Develop Greenhouse Gas Inventory/Strategy** – How to create an inventory of current greenhouse gas emissions and a formal strategy to reduce them.
- **Understand Climate Change Risks** – Educate your employees and your community about the risks of climate change and develop mitigation and adaptation strategies.
- **Climate Change Awareness for K to 12 Schools** – Schools can implement hands-on practical programs which educate students (grades K through 12) about climate change and its impacts.
- **Earthwise Thunder Bay Net Zero Business Guide** – Use the Net Zero Business Guide to help you significantly reduce waste and greenhouse gas emissions.

Sustainability in Action

- Trent University Professor, Dr. Chris Furgal, a leading climate change researcher, was a lead author on the chapter 'Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability' in the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2007 Report.
- Peterborough Green-Up's Air Quality and Transportation initiatives do much to raise climate change awareness in the Greater Peterborough Area by actively encouraging community members to look at alternatives to using their car as a means of getting around. One great example is "Active & Safe Routes to School" which promotes active and efficient transportation choices for children's trips to school.
- The City of Peterborough has developed a Flood Reduction Master Plan that outlines short and long terms actions to reduce the risk of flooding.

Theme: Cultural Assets



Canoes on display at the Canadian Canoe Museum.

Where Are We Now?

The Greater Peterborough Area is rich in cultural assets, and ranks highly as one of Canada's top creative communities. Blessed with a strong heritage, vibrant downtowns, two First Nations communities, an active artistic community, and diverse populations, there are no shortages of cultural experiences to be found throughout the region. The City of Peterborough is currently wrapping up its first Municipal Cultural Plan, while the Township of Cavan Monaghan and Curve Lake First Nation recently undertook their first Cultural Mapping Exercises – indications that culture is emerging as a central topic in the community. The economic benefits associated with fostering a culturally rich community are becoming increasingly recognized, and accordingly, nurturing culture within the Greater Peterborough Area must remain a priority both now and in the future.

Where Do We Want to Be in 25 Years?

Our Goal: We will support, sustain and promote a wide breadth of community cultures.

How Are We Going to Get There?

By following our *Strategic Directions*:

- Support the Greater Peterborough Area as a centre for the arts.
- Maintain and enhance our cultural spaces.
- Recognize and celebrate our culture and diversity.
- Maintain the character of our heritage including our built heritage, our rural characteristics, and landscapes.

Priority Action

- All municipalities in the Greater Peterborough Area should consider developing a *Municipal Cultural Plan*.

Note: Greater details of the *Priority Actions* are outlined in Appendix A. Additional short- and long-term Actions are offered in the List of Potential Initiatives (Appendix B).

Toolbox Resources

- **Establishing a Heritage Committee** – Establish a heritage committee to help establish and protect heritage properties.
- **10 Things You Can Do To Support Culture** – Ways to support culture in your community, many at little or no cost.
- **Cultural Resource Mapping** – Identify, record, and classify your community's cultural resources in order to describe and visualize them.
- **Support Public Art** – How to create a municipal policy that supports public art through its installation, promotion and upkeep.

Sustainability in Action

- Established in 1967, Lang Pioneer Village celebrates the area's rural history. Operated by the County of Peterborough and located in the Township of Otonabee-South Monaghan, the village hosts thousands of visitors.
- The Curve Lake First Nation Cultural Centre offers community members and visitors an opportunity to learn about local and regional First Nations culture.
- The Kawartha Heritage Conservancy has created a database of cultural heritage features to identify and map these resources in the Kawarthas region.
- The City of Peterborough received unprecedented recognition for its support of heritage with the province's Lieutenant Governor's Award, and Heritage Canada's Prince of Wales Award, both in 2011.
- The City of Peterborough is launching their recently completed Municipal Cultural Plan focussing on culture's role in creating a liveable, sustainable community.
- Cavan Monahan and Curve Lake First Nation are undertaking cultural mapping exercises to identify and leverage cultural assets.

Theme: Economic Development & Employment



Lisa Dixon from Black Honey.

Where Are We Now?

For some time, the Greater Peterborough Area was positioned as a leader in traditional economic activities such as manufacturing. More recently however, the Greater Peterborough Area has been faced with higher-than-average unemployment rates – a likely reflection of the less than certain global markets of the past several years. In order to ensure meaningful employment for our residents, the region, under the guidance of the Greater Peterborough Area Economic Development Corporation, is in a marked transition, building upon its traditional, industrial economic base and shifting towards what has been coined the ‘creative economy’ – an economy predominantly based on knowledge and culture, in addition to resource extraction and manufacturing. The creative economy and sustainability help build economic resiliency to market fluctuations.

Promoting the great work that is being done to bring the Greater Peterborough Area closer to its *Vision* of sustainability is one of the key outcomes of the Sustainable Peterborough process. The commitment to sustainability can be marketed within and beyond the community, with the desired outcome of making this region more attractive to potential visitors and investors. Specifically, entrepreneurs, investors, and local employers continue to invest and or locate in the Greater Peterborough Area because of the importance of quality of life and sustainability to them and their bottom line.

Where Do We Want to Be in 25 Years?

Our Goal: We will create and retain prosperity by providing investment and employment opportunities within sustainable local and global markets.

How Are We Going to Get There?

By following our *Strategic Directions*:

- Encourage and promote our leadership in sustainability to attract people and investors to the region.
- Retain youth in our communities through education and employment opportunities.
- Transition to the creative economy by creating meaningful employment.
- Sustain our vibrant downtowns/village centres as hubs for services and products.
- Support local businesses to transition to sustainable models.

Priority Action

- Through community asset mapping, promote the region's abundant natural assets, its sustainability initiatives and industries, and its economic potential.

Note: Greater details of the *Priority Actions* are outlined in Appendix A. Additional short- and long-term Actions are offered in the List of Potential Initiatives (Appendix B).

Toolbox Resources

- **“Creative Economy Potential” Assessment Service** – Assess the potential for your community's economic development strategy to include pursuit of the creative economy.
- **E-Business Handbook** – Implement an E-Business strategy for your company by using digital technology to grow your business.
- **Aboriginal Business Development Toolkit** – Assist your First Nations community in business start-up and development.
- **Fostering Sustainable Business Practices** – Evaluate your business operations for efficiency, investigate industry standards and learn about new opportunities for facility upgrades, energy and waste management.

Sustainability in Action

- Formed in 1998, the Greater Peterborough Area Economic Development Corporation is a non-profit corporation that focuses on manufacturing and small business, innovation, tourism, and agriculture and rural development. One of the core values identified by the GPAEDC in its Strategic Plan is sustainability, and it cites economic development opportunities in the area of energy efficiency as one such example of sustainability.
- One of the three focuses of the Community Opportunity and Innovation Network is community economic development. One current initiative, reBOOT, is a great example of sustainability. reBOOT refurbishes old computers and then donate or sell them to low income individuals and not-for-profit organizations in an effort to ensure that people can access economic opportunities and organizations can provide services to the community.

Theme: Energy



Solar panels at the Camp Kawartha Environment Centre.

Where Are We Now?

Energy is a critical component of the quality of life we enjoy today. It also contributes to our local economy as Peterborough's larger businesses are significant manufacturers of energy products. With increasing concerns over energy consumption, climate change and resource depletion, more and more people are taking a second look at how we produce and consume energy.

The Greater Peterborough Area has begun a transition to a community that utilizes more environmentally and climate-friendly forms of energy production. For example, Peterborough Utilities Inc., wholly owned by the City of Peterborough, is a provincial leader in renewable energy generation with 18 megawatts of hydroelectric and 10 megawatts of solar power in its portfolio. The Townships of Douro-Dummer and Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield are also exploring options for generating solar energy. In addition, many private landowners in the Greater Peterborough Area have taken advantage of Ontario's Feed-in Tariff program, with small arrays of solar panels becoming an increasingly common sight in the region. Indeed, long known as the 'Electric City', the City of Peterborough and its surrounding communities are again becoming leaders in electricity production.

However, conserving energy is just as important as changing the way we produce energy. While our community is taking great steps in changing the way we produce energy, we still have much work to do to address how we use energy. Components of this theme will help to address the Greater Peterborough Area's energy consumption, in an effort to minimize the amount of energy we use.

Where Do We Want to Be in 25 Years?

Our Goal: We will minimize the amount of energy we use and maximize the production of local, dependable sources of renewable energy.

How Are We Going to Get There?

By following our *Strategic Directions*:

- Reduce our reliance on fossil fuels through conservation and the use of alternative energy sources.
- Ensure efficient energy use in buildings.
- Lead the way in the development and use of renewable energy technologies.

Priority Actions

- Develop *community energy plans* in each of the Greater Peterborough Area's member communities, coordinated at a regional level.
- Establish energy efficiency standards for all new development which would consider LEED certification in all new construction and for renovations.

Note: Greater details of the *Priority Actions* are outlined in Appendix A. Additional short- and long-term Actions are offered in the List of Potential Initiatives (Appendix B).

Toolbox Resources

- **Municipal Energy Efficiency Planning Workbook** – Cut energy use within your own facilities by completing an energy audit and implementing the findings.
- **Aboriginal Renewable Energy Network** – Develop renewable energy generation facilities in your First Nations community.
- **Save ON Energy** – Implement strategies and solutions to reduce your business' energy use.
- **100 Ways to Save Energy** – Lower your personal energy use by implementing simple and potentially low cost ideas.

Sustainability in Action

- The Township of Douro-Dummer has applied for two microFIT solar contracts (one rooftop and one ground-mounted) and hopes to have these installed in 2012.
- The City of Peterborough, in partnership with Peterborough Utilities Inc., has approved the installation of a pilot rooftop solar energy project on the roof of the Kinsmen Civic Centre. The City has also approved, in principle, that all new and replacement roofs on city-owned buildings deemed suitable for solar power installations be constructed to accommodate rooftop solar systems.
- In partnership with Enbridge, Peterborough Green-Up is delivering the Enbridge Gas Distribution Home Weatherization Program locally. The program, designed to help those in financial need save on home heating costs, pays for costs associated with home improvements like increased insulation and draft proofing.
- The City of Peterborough conducted energy audits for City facilities in 2010, and has been converting street and facility lighting to be more energy efficient.

Theme: Healthy Communities



Two local youth enjoying the use of bike trails.

Where Are We Now?

Healthy Communities is broad and far-reaching, covering social equity, attainable housing, community involvement, healthcare, and recreation.

The Greater Peterborough Area is home to a number of community health-minded groups, faith groups, non-governmental organizations, and individuals. Local advocacy and citizen involvement has been and remains a strong point for the community. However, poverty continues to be a pressing challenge throughout the region, and the need for attainable housing persists.

In terms of healthcare, the Peterborough Regional Health Centre, opened in June 2008, is a state-of-the-art medical facility with capacity to serve the entire Greater Peterborough Area. However, obtaining access to health services remains a challenge for some – specifically those in the County's rural areas. An aging demographic will likely mean an increased demand on health and social services. Accordingly, the community must be prepared to meet this increase in service demand.

Health and well-being also depend on access to recreational opportunities for all age groups. Our playgrounds, trails, parks, arenas, gymnasiums, and multi-purpose facilities allow for a wide range of activities. In addition, many employers in both the public and private sectors are active in health and fitness, sports, and recreation; and are doing a great deal to promote the benefits of healthy lifestyles to their employees. However, there is limited capacity and many still encounter barriers to participation in regular recreation. Removing the physical and financial barriers which limit recreational participation is paramount in helping residents to achieve healthy lifestyles and create meaningful community connections.

Where Do We Want to Be in 25 Years?

Our Goal: We will be a community where everyone has the opportunity and support to achieve their physical, social, mental, emotional and spiritual potential.

How Are We Going to Get There?

By following our *Strategic Directions*:

- Encourage health and social services that focus on preventative care, are accessible, and meet the needs of our community as it changes.
- Provide sport and recreational opportunities that are accessible to all.
- Strive for adequate and attainable housing to increase the quality of life for all.
- Encourage civic engagement by supporting citizen involvement in decision-making.

Priority Action

- Increase the availability of *affordable housing* throughout the entire Greater Peterborough Area.

Note: Greater details of the *Priority Actions* are outlined in Appendix A. Additional short- and long-term Actions are offered in the List of Potential Initiatives (Appendix B).

Toolbox Resources

- **Developing Affordable Housing** – Develop and implement a municipal affordable housing strategy that collaborates with community partners.
- **Creating More Successful Public Spaces** – Invigorate the use of your public spaces by utilizing a low risk /low cost strategy that capitalizes on the creative energy of your community.
- **Make Your Community a Walkable Community** – Use the Canada Walks program to review the six characteristics of a walkable community and see how your community measures up.
- **Eat-Smart Recognition Program For Healthy Eating** – Adopt a healthy eating recognition program for your recreation centres and workplaces.

Sustainability in Action

- In 2009 the Canadian Association of Retired Persons identified Peterborough as the “most age friendly” City in the Country.
- Let Them Be Kids, a worldwide volunteer organization with a branch in the Township of Asphodel-Norwood, raises money in the community with the goal of increasing park and playground space for local youth. The community raised more than \$200,000 in five months in 2011.
- With the assistance of students from Trent University, the Township of Douro-Dummer is initiating a research study on the future needs for recreation and leisure services to address the community’s changing demographics over time.

Theme: Land Use Planning



Downtown Millbrook, in Cavan Monaghan.

Where Are We Now?

We use a system of Acts, plans and codes to formalize sustainable decision-making about land use. Where parks, schools and retail stores are located, and how they support each other in a sustainable manner, comes down to our ability to guide these land uses through various policies. At a rural scale, land use planning can guide whether an area will remain in agricultural use or revert to forest. In cottage areas, sustainable planning can direct lake management plans and shoreline protection areas. On a town or village scale, these laws and codes guide the design of buildings, streetscapes and the pedestrian realm. At a City scale, sustainable land use plans facilitate the location of industry, downtown development, sustainable transit and transportation systems, and affordable housing. Planning policies are continuously adapted to reflect current trends and best practices. Sustainable land-use planning requires us to think ahead 25 to 50 years. Across the Greater Peterborough Area many Official Plans have at least a 25 year planning horizon.

The prime planning tool is the Official Plan. Official Plans govern land use planning matters in municipalities. In the Greater Peterborough Area, the County of Peterborough establishes its Official Plan which all townships must adhere to, though they are free to establish their own within its confines. The Townships of Cavan Monaghan, Douro-Dummer, Galway-Cavendish & Harvey, Havelock-Belmont-Methuen, and Otonabee-South Monaghan have established their own, while the Townships of Asphodel-Norwood, North Kawartha, and Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield have incorporated local policies into the County's Official Plan. Currently, the City of Peterborough is in the process of undertaking the five year review of its Official Plan – “Plan it Peterborough”. Some of the natural environment is protected under Provincial planning legislation. Under the *Places to Grow Act*, the Government of Ontario has prepared a *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*. Both the City and County of Peterborough fall under the jurisdiction of the *Growth Plan*, which provides growth management policy direction for all affected communities. In addition, part of the County of Peterborough, in the Township of Cavan Monaghan, is part of the *Oak Ridges Moraine* and its green space, farmland, forests, wetlands, and watersheds are afforded much protection under provincial legislation.

Where Do We Want to Be in 25 Years?

Our Goal: We will support the building of sustainable, healthy and diverse communities through planning policies and decisions that are developed and made in a transparent, open and accessible manner.

How Are We Going to Get There?

By following our *Strategic Directions*:

- Encourage land use planning that protects the unique urban and rural charms of our communities and balances the rural-urban interface.
- Support the creation of pedestrian-oriented communities that encompass all elements we need within our community.
- Encourage sustainable land use that considers the net environmental impacts.
- Place priority on brownfield redevelopment before greenfield development.
- Integrate current and future strategic and master plans with the Sustainable Peterborough Plan.

Priority Action

- Develop and implement neighbourhood design guidelines that ensure equal opportunities for all users – including pedestrians, cyclists, public transportation, and automobiles – relevant to both urban and rural areas.

Note: Greater details of the *Priority Actions* are outlined in Appendix A. Additional short- and long-term Actions are offered in the List of Potential Initiatives (Appendix B).

Toolbox Resources

- **Brownfield Redevelopment: Reduced Development Charges** – Encourage remediation of Brownfield sites by offering reduced development charges.
- **Community Improvement Plans (CIP)** – Develop and implement a CIP, which provides a means of planning and financing development activities that effectively use, reuse and restore lands, buildings and infrastructure.
- **Develop Green Building/Development Standards** – Develop and implement a set of local green building or development standards to encourage more sustainable building practices and techniques.
- **Sustainability Screening Process / Checklist** – Use *Strategic Directions* to create a checklist that can be used to assess projects.

Sustainability in Action

- The Township of Cavan Monaghan's draft Official Plan contains forward thinking policies on energy conservation, achieved through lot, building, and community design; the use of vegetation, facilities, and infrastructure layout; LEED building certifications; and mixed-use development.
- The Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield is currently developing Community Improvement Plans for Lakefield, Bridgenorth, Ennismore, and Young's Point. Community Improvement Plans are used to provide incentives to stimulate private sector development in downtowns and village centres.
- The City of Peterborough is reviewing the Official Plan through the Plan it Peterborough process. The new Official Plan will be consistent with the significant changes in the Provincial land use planning system, such as the new Provincial Policy Statement (2005) that focuses on sustainability and the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

Theme: Natural Assets



Eels Creek in North Kawartha.

Where Are We Now?

Likely its best known feature and greatest draw, the Greater Peterborough Area is blessed with an abundance of natural assets. From the Oak Ridges Moraine in the Southwest to the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site in the Northeast, and the lakes, wetlands, alvars, drumlins, and wildlife in between, the community is rich in diverse natural features.

This natural wealth is valued by those both within and outside our community, and maintaining these natural assets is paramount to a Sustainable Peterborough. However, our natural assets are facing many threats, including development pressures, diminishing biodiversity, climate change, and invasive species, and we must work as a community to ensure the splendour that we so greatly value is there for future generations to enjoy as we do.

Where Do We Want to Be in 25 Years?

Our Goal: We will preserve, enhance and restore our natural assets to maintain ecological health.

How Are We Going to Get There?

By following our *Strategic Directions*:

- Design and manage public green spaces in such a way as to maximize the presence and functions of natural systems.
- Conserve, manage and enhance our natural areas to foster a diversity of native species and habitat.
- Develop an understanding and appreciation of the significance of our natural assets.
- Maintain and enhance the quality of our air.

Priority Actions

- Adopt the ‘Kawarthas...Naturally Connected’ Natural Heritage System and integrate it into Official Plans.
- Identify and help access financial incentives for environmentally sound land stewardship practices.

Note: Greater details of the *Priority Actions* are outlined in Appendix A. Additional short- and long-term Actions are offered in the List of Potential Initiatives (Appendix B).

Toolbox Resources

- **Tax Exemptions for Conservation** – Encourage environmental conservation and stewardship through implementation of municipal property tax exemptions for approved practices.
- **Protecting Natural Heritage** – Adopt a Natural Heritage System and/or promote land trust programs.
- **Alternative Land Use Services For Farmers** – Establish a program that assists farmers in their voluntary efforts to return marginal, environmentally sensitive, or inefficient farmland to native vegetative cover and wetlands.
- **Community Stream Stewardship Program** – Join the program as a member and learn how to conserve and restore streams thereby protecting our natural heritage and our water.

Sustainability in Action

- The Kawartha Highlands Signature Site, located in the Townships of North Kawartha and Galway-Cavendish & Harvey, was designated a Provincial Park in 2003. This means that this significant area of natural splendour is protected from the sale of crown land, over-development, and new commercial activities.
- Through the Community Foundation for Greater Peterborough, a Kawartha Heritage Conservancy Stewardship Fund has been established to support the KHC’s program to acquire and steward significant natural and cultural lands in our region. Donations made to this fund may be matched.
- The City of Peterborough has had an urban forestry policy since 1989. The City recently updated the urban forestry policy with the Urban Forest Strategic Plan, integrating best management practices that will benefit our urban forest and community.
- Fleming and Trent jointly launched a new degree program (Honours BSc) in Ecological Restoration in 2008. The first graduating class will cross the stage in June 2012.

Theme: Transportation



Fall time on a rural road in Peterborough County.

Where Are We Now?

The personal vehicle, in large part, remains the dominant method of choice for travel in the Greater Peterborough Area, which can be attributed to the predominantly rural setting of the community. In fact, approximately 67% of Greater Peterborough Area residents travel to work as a lone occupant in a vehicle. Our predominate mode of travel is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, contributes to road congestion, which impacts our economy and commute times, discourages physical activity, and isolates people from social interaction. This is widely recognized by many as an unsustainable path – one that we must change course on.

Fortunately, the region is home to a dedicated collection of people advocating for reduced reliance on personal vehicles as a means of getting around. This group is actively encouraging the widespread uptake of alternatives such as cycling, walking, public transit, and carpooling. Moreover, there has been a longstanding push in the community to increase connectivity with communities beyond our regional boundaries. This was highlighted in 2009 with the arrival of GO Service and the ongoing support for passenger rail linkages with the Greater Toronto Area.

Where Do We Want to Be in 25 Years?

Our Goal: We will have an accessible transportation network that places priority on active and efficient modes of transportation.

How Are We Going to Get There?

By following our *Strategic Directions*:

- Provide accessible and complete active transportation opportunities that are attractive alternatives to the private automobile.
- Enhance public transportation that is accessible, affordable, efficient, and effective to support the needs of the community.

Priority Actions

- Complete the proposed Short-Term Cycling Network as outlined in the City of Peterborough's Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update and integrate it to the greatest extent possible with existing and new cycling trails in the County of Peterborough.
- Assess innovative solutions to the mobility challenges facing rural people in the Greater Peterborough Area.

Note: Greater details of the *Priority Actions* are outlined in Appendix A. Additional short- and long-term Actions are offered in the List of Potential Initiatives (Appendix B).

Toolbox Resources

- **Reducing Vehicle Use / Improving Vehicle Efficiency** – Use Eco-driver Tips to change your driving habits in a more eco-friendly fashion.
- **Community Wide/Rural Public Transit** – Implement a public transit system that links smaller, more rural communities around Greater Peterborough Area.
- **Green Your Vehicle Fleet** – Green your fleet and reduce emissions that impact climate change and human health by conserving fuel, implementing new technology, changing fleets to alternative fuels where feasible.
- **Green Defensive Driving Course** – Make all your employees better, safer, greener drivers using the Canada Safety Council's Green Defensive Driving Course.

Sustainability in Action

- Workplace Shifting Gears is a month-long competition in the City of Peterborough run annually by Peterborough Green-Up in partnership with the City of Peterborough, Peterborough Moves, the Peterborough County-City Health Unit, Wild Rock Outfitters, and Transport Canada. The campaign encourages people to walk, bike, take transit, and/or share a ride to work, or to work from home. In 2011, Shifting Gears had its best year yet with 1,250 people from more than 100 workplaces participating in the competition.
- Rail, a more energy efficient means of transporting goods than by truck, remains a prominent fixture in the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen. With nepheline syenite being mined in Nephton and Blue Mountain, freight trains remain the method of choice for delivering this mineral to market.

Theme: Waste



Recycling containers at the Buckhorn Transfer Station.

Where Are We Now?

Generating waste is a fact of life, and cannot be avoided. However there is no waste in nature, with all materials being recycled and recirculated within the ecosystem. How we handle the waste we generate has significant impacts and we can learn a great deal from nature, with many suggesting that our waste management practices need to better reflect processes found in nature.

Currently, the County of Peterborough diverts 42% of its waste from landfill, while the City of Peterborough diverts nearly 51% of its waste. The provincial target in Ontario for waste diversion is 60%, meaning that the Greater Peterborough Area still has work to do in terms of its waste diversion efforts. With both the City and County developing new Waste Management Master Plans, we are well positioned to implement the three Rs hierarchy of reduce, reuse and recycle and to improve our waste diversion rate over time.

Where Do We Want to Be in 25 Years?

Our Goal: We will reduce the amount of waste we generate by using resources wisely.

How Are We Going to Get There?

By following our *Strategic Directions*:

- Reduce the amount of waste we generate.
- Reuse materials wherever possible.
- Maximize diversion of materials from disposal as viable markets and technologies become available.
- Recover resources where possible.

Priority Actions

- Identify and promote opportunities for the reuse or recycling of reusable goods and materials.
- Establish a curbside organic waste collection program.

Note: Greater details of the *Priority Actions* are outlined in Appendix A. Additional short- and long-term Actions are offered in the List of Potential Initiatives (Appendix B).

Toolbox Resources

- **Curbside Organic Waste Collection** – Develop and implement a municipal curbside organic waste collection program.
- **Quest for Less – School Waste Reduction Programs** – Teachers can book the Quest for Less Grade 1, 3 or 7 programs or the Earth Week School Challenge.
- **Waste Reduction Toolkit for Construction/Demolition Projects** - Develop and implement a 3R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) strategy for your construction and demolition projects.
- **Backyard Composting** – Learn how to compost in your own yard.

Sustainability in Action

- The Township of Galway-Cavendish & Harvey is making use of renewable energy in its waste diversion efforts, employing solar power to compact cardboard at the Buckhorn Transfer Station.
- The County of Peterborough operates five seasonal hazardous waste depots and the City of Peterborough operates a permanent hazardous waste depot on Pido Road, helping to keep toxic materials out of our landfills and ensuring their proper care and disposal. As an additional service, the City's depot offers used cans of paint, stains, and other reusable products for free to those that want them and can put them to good use.
- Peterborough Utilities Inc. (PUI) has an agreement with the City and County to install a landfill gas utilization facility at the Peterborough County-City Waste Management Facility to use the methane generated from rotting garbage to produce 2MW of electricity.

Theme: Water



The Trent-Severn Waterway, an important historical and cultural feature in the Greater Peterborough Area.

Where Are We Now?

The Greater Peterborough Area is well known for its abundance of lakes and rivers. Blessed with 134 lakes, this reputation is well merited. Also home to the Trent-Severn Waterway and the world's largest hydraulic lift lock, water navigation has played an important role in shaping the Greater Peterborough Area's identity.

Conservation Authorities, groups such as the Kawartha Lakes Stewards Association, Cottage and Lake Associations, and many others are working diligently to keep our lakes and rivers clean and healthy. However, overdevelopment, invasive species, nutrient loading, climate change, and more are persistent threats to the integrity of our aquatic ecosystems. Water is a precious resource, to be valued and cherished, and we must work collectively as a community to ensure that we protect this resource in perpetuity.

Where Do We Want to Be in 25 Years?

Our Goal: We will make wise use of our water to enhance its quality and quantity, ensuring that future generations will be able to use our water to drink, fish, and swim.

How Are We Going to Get There?

By following our *Strategic Directions*:

- Protect watersheds to ensure healthy water quality and quantity.
- Conserve the amount of water we use.
- Recognize and protect the ecological functions of the shorelines of water bodies.
- Maintain public access to our lakes and rivers for recreation and enjoyment.

Priority Actions

- Establish a water conservation and efficiency program that motivates water consumers and makes available resources for water conservation.
- Find funding that will enable the inventorying and identification of shoreline and wetland areas in need of ecological restoration.
- Establish an integrated watershed management plan to promote ecological health and sustainability within the Greater Peterborough Area watersheds.

Note: Greater details of the *Priority Actions* are outlined in Appendix A. Additional short- and long-term Actions are offered in the List of Potential Initiatives (Appendix B).

Toolbox Resources

- **Water Use Conservation Bylaw** – Encourage water conservation through the summer months via enactment of a conservation bylaw or policy.
- **Water Conservation Incentive Programs** – Encourage the installation and utilization of water conservation devices such as low-flow toilets, low-flow showerheads, rain barrels through the implementation of a municipal incentive program.
- **Testing Your Lake Water** – Join Kawartha Lake Stewards' Association (KLSA) water testing program.
- **Inspect Your Septic** – Ensure your septic system is working properly by completing a personal inspection or hiring someone to have a look.

Sustainability in Action

- With its campus nestled on both the east and west banks of the Otonabee River, it is fitting that Trent University is home to both the Water Quality Centre and the Institute for Watershed Science. In partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Fleming College, the Institute for Watershed Science undertakes research to better understand watershed function, develop tools to improve watershed management, and to share this knowledge with water resource managers.
- The Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield and the City of Peterborough both employ summer watering restrictions in an effort to conserve water in dry summer months.
- The County of Peterborough, City of Peterborough, City of Kawartha Lakes, Trent University, and Fleming College are working towards establishing Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Peterborough as an international centre of excellence for water quality.

7. HOW WILL WE IMPLEMENT OUR PLAN?

Already a provincial and national leader in environmental awareness, our community's reputation will be strengthened with the development and implementation of our Plan for a sustainable future. Together we can achieve our *Vision* to ensure that our environment maintains its integrity and important functions, our community is healthy, active and supported by people and services, and that the vitality of our economy continues well into the future. Implementation of Sustainable Peterborough takes a layered, multi-faceted approach. Details of how the implementation of the Sustainable Peterborough Plan will take place are detailed below.

Community Partnership

We live in a community of communities and our strengths are in our communities. Our Sustainable Peterborough Plan builds on and depends on these strengths. It will take all members of the Greater Peterborough Area to help realize our long-term community *Vision*. This Plan has been built to be implemented by not just one entity, but by all members of our community, including municipalities, First Nations, businesses, community groups and organizations, and the general public. Our Plan has been designed to be flexible and allow *Community Partners* to adopt the community *Vision* and work towards implementing components that they are able to or are already working on. The implementation model seeks to build synergies, integration, and collaboration between community members.

Organizations throughout our communities are already doing things right now that are making the region more sustainable. Community partnership is an invitation to share success stories, demonstrate community leadership and work collaboratively on new opportunities. The benefits to a *Partner* organization include:

- Motivation of employees, stakeholders or residents to be part of a broad-based campaign;
- Unified action on initiatives that impact upon the community's identified shared values and priorities;
- Collective promotion of the Greater Peterborough Area for tourism and economic development;
- Information sharing through the website and networking opportunities at local events; and
- Promotion of contributions to local sustainability through Sustainable Peterborough.

Community Partners will agree to participate in the overall implementation of the Sustainable Peterborough Plan. There are several levels of partnership and each *Partner* chooses the level that is the best fit for the organization.

Individuals

Individuals will:

- Support the *Vision*, use the *Toolbox* and commit to actions of their choosing.

Members

Members will:

- Support the *Vision* for Sustainable Peterborough through a municipal resolution of Council, a Band Council resolution, a board of directors resolution, a policy or similar;
- Include the actions that they are already taking in the *Sustainable Peterborough Action Inventory*.

This level of commitment does not require a financial contribution from the *Community Partner*.

Leaders

Leaders will:

- Make the same commitment as Members.
- Review the *Sustainable Peterborough Toolbox* and consider implementing those measures that are a good fit for their organization.
- Integrate Sustainable Peterborough into their operations by selecting one of the following approaches:
 - a. Adopt Sustainable Peterborough and its *Goals* and *Strategic Directions*; **OR**
 - b. Adapt the *Goals* to meet the needs of the organization and use the *Strategic Directions* that are a good fit; **OR**
 - c. Align the organization's strategic goals and objectives with Sustainable Peterborough the next time that they are reviewed and updated; **OR**
 - d. Address the *Vision* and *Principles* of Sustainable Peterborough in the organization's shared value statement.

This level of commitment will only require a financial contribution from the *Partner* if the *Partner* chooses to complete new, unfunded actions from the List of Potential Initiatives (Appendix B) or the *Sustainable Peterborough Toolbox* (Appendix C). Leaders can review the List of Potential Initiatives and the *Toolbox* and integrate Sustainable Peterborough into their operations without incurring any new financial expenses by focusing on no cost action items and opportunities to secure external funds for projects.

Champions

Champions are recognized leaders within the community that have developed a sustainability program already. They recognize the benefits of implementing a community-based sustainability plan. Where appropriate, we will include their corporate logo or sustainability program logo in Sustainable Peterborough promotional material.

Champions will:

- Make the same commitment as leaders.
- Assist Sustainable Peterborough by providing guidance, direction and support where possible.

Peterborough Partnership Levels

Level of Commitment	Member	Leader	Champion
Support SP vision	✓	✓	✓
Include actions in the <i>Sustainable Peterborough Action Inventory</i>	✓	✓	✓
Review SP Toolbox and implement actions that are a good fit		✓	✓
Integrate Sustainable Peterborough values into organizational program		✓	✓
Assist Sustainable Peterborough by providing guidance, direction and support			✓

Commitment from the Partners

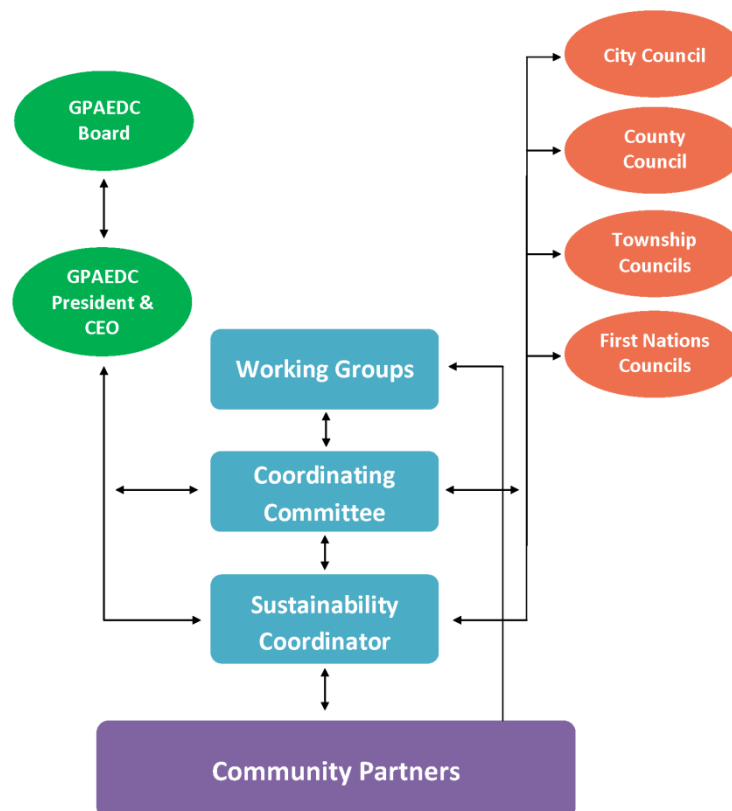
Community Partners will sign a written commitment that identifies the level of participation that they have selected. Municipal partners can use the suggested Resolution of Council (Appendix F). *Partners* will receive a start-up package and will be able to contact Sustainable Peterborough for assistance as they take steps to become a *Partner*. Once a *Partner* has joined, they will be identified as a *Community Partner* at events and in communications from Sustainable Peterborough.

Action Inventory

Members, Leaders, and Champions will have the opportunity to include initiatives they are already doing or plan on doing in the Sustainable Peterborough *Action Inventory*, an online database that will include the actions being taken by Sustainable Peterborough community *Partners* that are moving our community closer to our *Vision* of sustainability. Details on the *Action Inventory* are in Section 8.

Governance

Success of our Sustainable Peterborough Plan depends on strong leadership and support. An organizational model for implementing the Sustainable Peterborough Plan has been designed that will be long-lasting and maintains Partners as active members providing direction for the future of Sustainable Peterborough.



Coordinating Committee

A new Sustainable Peterborough Coordinating Committee will be struck to monitor operations and activities and to provide strategic direction, input, and expert knowledge to the Sustainable Peterborough Coordinator. Key Responsibilities of the Coordinating Committee will include:

- Continuously monitor the progress of the implementation of the Plan;
- Provide expert knowledge as it relates to each member's area of specialty;
- Provide advice relating to the overall implementation of the Plan; and
- Assist with the organization of workshops, conferences or presentations.

Members of the Coordinating Committee will represent the *Partners* of Sustainable Peterborough. The Coordinating Committee will also include community representation, which will be solicited through expressions of interest for two year terms.

Working Groups

Sustainable Peterborough Working Groups will bring together people and organizations across a multitude of sectors to focus on implementing the *Priority Actions*. Working Groups will include *Partners*, people, and organizations from communities across the Greater Peterborough Area committed to implementing one or more of our *Priority Actions*. The Working Groups will be formed with the assistance of the Sustainable Peterborough Coordinating Committee as the implementation phase progresses and will work towards refining elements of a given *Priority Action*, ensuring appropriate support, and overseeing overall implementation.

The Sustainable Peterborough Coordinating Committee will be the integrating organization for the Working Groups. Each Partner will be welcome to sit on an established Working Group and to contribute resources where necessary.

Sustainable Peterborough Coordinator

It is recommended that a part-time coordinator position be established, with the overall responsibility to oversee and act as the one-window point of contact, based out of the GPAEDC office, for the implementation of the Sustainable Peterborough Plan.

The following tasks/roles will be part of the coordinators position:

- Promotion and communication of partners, actions or initiatives through social media, the Sustainable Peterborough Website, or media;
- Serving as the Coordinating Committee facilitator;
- Completing annual reporting/report card;
- Providing presentations and updates to Councils;
- Tracking progress and maintain the *Action Inventory*;
- Developing partnerships and aligning *Partners* with *Actions*; and
- Acting as collaborator and connector for Sustainability in the GPA.

While the presence of a sustainability coordinator will ensure that the tasks in the list above will be able to be achieved, there are no limitations on what a group(s) or organization(s) can achieve on advancing actions listed within the Sustainability Plan.

Roles and Responsibilities

Roles	Coordinator	Coordinating Committee	GPA EDC	City, County, Townships, First Nations	Other Partners
Administration & Finances	✓ (SP)			✓ (Municipal)	
Promotion & Communication	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Committee Facilitator	✓				
Website & Social Media	✓				
Annual Reporting/Report Card	✓ (SP)			✓ (Municipal)	✓
Presentations to Councils	✓ (SP)				
Tracking Progress/Inventory	✓ (SP)			✓	✓
Human Resources			✓		
Supervise Coordinator			✓		
Develop Partnerships		✓	✓	✓	✓
Collaboration		✓	✓	✓	✓
Seek Funding Opportunities		✓		✓	✓
Business Development/Grant Writing		✓		✓	✓
Grant Funding Administration		✓		✓	✓
Municipal Sustainable Initiatives				✓	
Community & Business Sustainable Initiatives		✓		✓	✓

Decision-Making: A Sustainability Lens

Sustainability seeks to find a balance between environmental, socio-cultural, and economic pillars. A component of implementing our Sustainable Peterborough Plan is applying a sustainability lens to decision-making in order to consider the potential implications of decisions from a sustainability perspective. This lens may be used in a variety of settings and initiatives to integrate Sustainable Peterborough into future plans and policies (including decisions relating to development, land-use planning, budgeting and others) to assess the fit within our *Vision*: Caring communities balancing prosperity, well-being and nature.

Our Sustainability *Principles* provide guidance in future decision-making. Recommendations and actions shall refer back to these *Principles* to ensure that the community is moving towards our *Vision*.

- A. Municipalities can use the lens to analyze legislation, policies, budget considerations, programs, and development proposals to determine whether these exclude or include sustainability in their decision-making.
- B. Non-government organizations and community groups can use the lens to find out if the policies, programs, and practices they use exclude or include sustainability in their decision-making.
- C. Businesses can use the lens for planning, development, and action to include sustainability in their decision-making.

Step 1: Evaluate the degree to which the initiative supports each of the pillars of sustainability.

Pillar	1-5 Ranking (1 = low, 5 = high)	Comments
Environmental Protection		
Social/Cultural Enhancement		
Economic Prosperity		

Based on the assessment, where can improvements be made in ensuring the initiative moves us towards sustainability? If any of the pillars ranked below 3, the initiative should reconsider the impacts on that pillar and seek improvements that can increase the ranking.

Step 2: Evaluate the degree to which the initiative supports each principle of our sustainability plan.

Principle		Does the initiative support the principle?	
		1-5 Ranking (1 = low, 5 = high)	Comments
Think Long-term	Focus beyond short-term solutions on the steps we need to take to achieve our sustainability goals.		
Look for Regional Solutions	Work together to identify collective solutions to common problems.		
Be Transparent and Accountable	Track positive and negative changes in community sustainability, share the results, accept accountability, and continuously improve.		
Be Innovative	Look beyond the tried and true to new approaches that can be tested and implemented if feasible.		
Adopt Simple, Understandable, and Doable Approaches	Build on what we are doing, support individual agency and community-led initiatives, and focus on achievable next steps.		
Adopt Financially Achievable Approaches	Establish the payback timeframe, balance benefits with long-term costs, and look for innovative funding and financing options.		
Engage Community Members	Create and nurture long-term connections between individuals, community groups, institutions, businesses and local municipalities and First Nations.		
Make a Commitment and Lead by Example	As partners to this process, make a commitment to sustainability and show leadership within the community.		
Be Inclusive	Reach out to all communities within the Greater Peterborough Area, embrace		

Principle		Does the initiative support the principle?	
		1-5 Ranking (1 = low, 5 = high)	Comments
	diversity and use our understanding of collective needs to shape and influence our actions.		
Be Creative	Nurture and harness the creativity that lies within everyone to build a strong economy, cultural identity, and protection for our natural assets.		
Total			

Based on the assessment, where can improvements be made in ensuring the initiative moves us towards sustainability?

If total ranking is less than 30, initiatives/decisions should be reconsidered. If any of the *Principles* rank below 3, particular attention should be paid to make improvements to increase the ranking.

Financial Considerations

The following identifies the basic potential expenditures associated with sustainability plan implementation for Sustainable Peterborough. These include:

- Part-time Sustainability Coordinator salary;
- Sustainable Peterborough Coordinating Committee budget;
- Annual Report Card and progress reporting;
- Consideration of an annual community event and/or annual awards;
- Communications; and
- Implementation of selected actions.

Funding Opportunities

There are a number of avenues for funding actions under Sustainable Peterborough, including the continued access to federal gas tax funding; and opportunities from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. In addition, there are a number of grants and other funding sources that can be accessed moving forward.

Ongoing Engagement and Awareness

Ongoing Community Involvement and Conversations

Continuing the conversation about Sustainable Peterborough is a priority. An engagement and communications strategy (including social media) will be developed as part of the first task of beginning the implementation of the Sustainable Peterborough Plan. This task will be completed by the coordinator and/or the Sustainable Peterborough Coordinating Committee.

Annual Celebration and Action Planning

Hosting of an annual event is recommended to communicate and celebrate the success of Sustainable Peterborough. During the event, participants will be invited to learn about *Partner* successes, experiences, and action implementation, and to review potential initiatives that could be actions moving forward. New participants will also be invited to become *Partners*.

8. HOW WILL WE MEASURE OUR PROGRESS?

Action Inventory

The *Action Inventory* is a mechanism to link and advance actions that our *Community Partners* in the Greater Peterborough Area are doing or planning to do as they relate our *Vision, Goals, and Strategic Directions*. It is an online database that will include the actions being taken by Sustainable Peterborough *Community Partners* that are moving our community closer to our *Vision* of sustainability. The *Action Inventory* allows *Partners* to become active implementers of Sustainable Peterborough by exploring actions they are taking that support our *Vision* and monitoring and tracking their progress. *Partners* are asked to set their own targets associated with each action to ensure they are realistic and achievable.

Community Partners will be asked to link their actions to at least one *Theme* and one *Strategic Direction*. The following information will also be sought for each action:

- Action name;
- Description of the action;
- Action lead (usually the name of the community *Partner*);
- Target associated with the action;
- Due date for reaching the target; and
- Status of the action.

The *Action Inventory* provides real-time access to the list of actions to all residents of the GPA and should be updated annually to monitor progress.

Annual Report Card

Progress on Sustainable Peterborough's implementation will be reported annually through the use of a regional Report Card. The Report Card will provide a community update on sustainability, including advancement of *Priority Actions* and actions of *Community Partners*, as well as report on a set of 26 'big picture' indicators intended to demonstrate progress over time (see Appendix G). The indicator framework looks at a smaller number of indicators that represent change spanning multiple sustainability pillars and themes. These indicators have been developed based on best practices and are suited to the needs of the Greater Peterborough Area. They use readily available data sources and allow for the comparison in terms of where we stand with respect to our progress towards sustainability.

The coordinator will be responsible for putting together the Report Card with information provided by municipalities, First Nations, and other *Partners*. The Report Card can be in the form of a newsletter, or on the website that would be easily available to all members of our community. It will be important to show how we are doing and to keep Sustainable Peterborough and sustainability in general at the forefront of our community.

Refreshment of Our Plan

Our community values presented in Sustainable Peterborough are representative of our values as of 2012. Sustainable Peterborough should be flexible in order to adapt to our community as we change. Accordingly, Sustainable Peterborough should be refreshed on a regular basis.

It is recommended that Sustainable Peterborough be reviewed every four years, at the onset of each new municipal Council term. The purpose of this review is to educate Council and community members

on sustainability and review and revise the Plan according to newly identified priorities – and successes achieved.

Monitoring progress sometimes requires an outside perspective. It is recommended that a third party auditor/facilitator is brought in on a bi-annual basis to review the success of implementation.

9. GLOSSARY

Action Inventory: An online database that will serve to link and advance actions being undertaken by Community Partners.

Active Transportation: Refers to anything that is human-powered, such as walking, jogging, running, cycling, using a wheelchair, in-line skating, or skateboarding.

Affordable Housing: Is defined by the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation as housing that does not necessitate a household spending more than 30% of gross income on shelter costs.

Charrette: A charrette refers to a collaborative session in which a group of people work together to develop jointly owned solutions. The Sustainable Peterborough process involved a one-day policy charrette in which *Goals*, *Strategic Directions*, and *Priority Actions* were developed.

Community Committee: Comprised of a broad range of stakeholders, representing each of the Greater Peterborough Area's member communities. The Community Committee contributed relevant knowledge to the Sustainability Plan's development, while at the same time making sure that it is consistent with community interests.

Community Energy Plan: A strategic plan developed with the objectives of attracting investment in the energy sector, ensuring a reliable energy supply, and reducing the environmental impacts associated with energy generation and consumption.

Community Improvement Plan: A tool shaped by local priorities and needs that a municipal government can use to target areas in need of rehabilitation or redevelopment, facilitate community change in a coordinated manner, and/or stimulate private sector investment through incentive-based programs.

Community Partners: Include municipalities, First Nations, institutions, local groups and organizations, and businesses that together share the implementation of the Sustainable Peterborough Plan. By continuing to pursue actions already being undertaken, or taking on new actions that move us closer to our *Vision*, Community Partners together help make the Greater Peterborough Area a sustainable community.

Complete Communities: A complete community is one that provides opportunities to live, work, shop, and play. In other words, you are in close proximity to all you need in your day-to-day life, such as options for food, housing, transportation, recreation, education, retail, and employment.

Complete Streets: A movement that encourages streets to be designed and operated with all users (pedestrians, cyclists, public transit rides, and personal vehicle users) of all ages and abilities in mind.

Current Conditions: At the beginning of the development of the Sustainable Peterborough Plan, a thorough assessment of all ongoing plans, policies, programs, and initiatives in the Greater Peterborough Area was undertaken. This assessment has provided direction for Sustainable Peterborough, and the opportunity to align current sustainability initiatives in the region.

Goals: Describes what each *Theme* looks like if our *Vision* is achieved. The goal statement describes what success looks like in a sustainable future for a particular *Theme*, aligned with the *Vision* and ultimately the *Principles*. It generally takes the form of a statement of the highest aspirations and

purpose for the community system combined with a number of long-term *Strategic Directions* that provide further detail.

Healthy Communities: An international movement that takes a holistic view of communities, recognizing the interconnectedness of a variety of issues. Healthy Community initiatives include a broad, multi-sectoral (social, environmental, and economic) approach that benefit the entire community.

Municipal Cultural Plan: Is a process for utilizing a community's cultural assets to support economic development and to integrate culture into local planning and decision-making processes.

Principles: Provide our community and the Sustainable Peterborough team with guidance in developing our *Themes, Goals, Strategic Directions, and Priority Actions*, as well as guidance in future decision-making.

Priority Actions: Certain actions have been identified as a priority by the community. Priority Actions are grouped under each of the *Themes*, which provide greater detail on potential activities and which of our community partners can help implement them.

Steering Committee: Comprised of a diverse group of stakeholders tasked with the responsibility of providing direction to the planning process through all stages of its development.

Strategic Directions: High level objectives that are intended to provide guidance on moving from the *Current Condition* to the *Goal* developed for each *Theme*.

Sustainable Peterborough Toolbox: A collection of approaches, programs and initiatives that can be adopted on a voluntary basis by Community Partners.

Themes: A Theme is a specific focus area of Sustainable Peterborough that has emerged an area of importance to our community and supports achievement of the overall *Vision*, such as energy, climate change, water, or economic development and employment.

Vision: This is the overall image for community sustainability in 25 years from now. All actions taken in the future should move the Greater Peterborough Area closer to its *Vision*.

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Priority Actions

Appendix B – List of Potential Initiatives

Appendix C – Toolbox

Appendix D – Developing Sustainable Peterborough through Community Collaboration

Appendix E – Current Conditions Report

Appendix F – Suggested Resolution of Council for Municipal Partners

Appendix G – Report Card Indicator Framework

Appendix H – Funding Sources